

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-11 FEAЕ-00 AF-10

PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 PRS-01 DODE-00

DRC-01 /134 W

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P R 261614Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0331

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15597

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

BRUSSELS AND MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, ENRG, XF

SUBJECT: EC-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: PARIS 14509 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO QUAU OFFICIAL, ARABS ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. ARAB LEAGUE WILL CHOOSE IN MID-JULY ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET WITH EC PRESIDENCY, PROBABLY IN LATE JULY. JOINT COMMISSIONS ARE NOT APT TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK IN TIME TO PERMIT FULL EURO-ARAB MINISTERIAL GATHERING BEFORE NEXT YEAR. TUNISIAN FONMIN, AFTER SEEING FRENCH FONMIN, STRESSED POLITICAL ASPECTS OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, ASPECTS THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY. END SUMMARY

1. QUAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE LEVANT ROUILLO, WHO AS REPRESENTATIVE OF EC PRESIDENCY AFTER JULY 1 ACCOMPANIED GERMAN AND EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES TO CAIRO FOR TALKS LAST WEEK WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE (AND THE EGYPTIANS) ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, TOLD US JUNE 25 THAT ATMOSPHERE OF THE CAIRO MEETINGS WAS VERY GOOD. ROUILLO SAID ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIADH HAS ASSEMBLED A GIFTED STAFF WITH BROAD EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEIR REGULAR DUTIES ARE NOT TAXING, ARE ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF PROMOTING THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

2. ROUILLO SAID THAT THE COUNTRIES (PROBABLY EGYPT, ALGERIA AND SAUDI ARABIA) WHOSE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL COME TO PARIS TO INITIATE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY PROBABLY WILL BE SELECTED DURING THE JULY 12 - 13 MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. ASSUMING ARAB AGREEMENT ON THE LEAGUE'S REPRESENTATIVES, ROUILLO THOUGHT THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD MEET WITH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES IN LATE JULY.

3. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE SET UNTIL THE ARAB LEAGUE DURING ITS JULY MEETING HAS ACTED UPON THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE EC REPRESENTATIVES CARRIED TO CAIRO LAST WEEK, ROUILLO SAID. HE WAS TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT WHAT THOSE SUGGESTIONS ARE, REPEATING SIMPLY THAT THEY INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT EURO-ARAB STUDY COMMISSIONS IN THE FIELDS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION,

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AGRICULTURE, TECHNICAL EXCHANGES, ETC. HE DOUBTED THAT THE JOINT COMMISSIONS COULD BEGIN SERIOUS WORK BEFORE

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 15597

THE END OF RAMADAN (LATE OCTOBER) AND SAID THAT THERE IS
NO REASON TO QUESTION FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES ESTIMATE
MADE AT OTTAWA THAT THE FULL EURO-ARAB MINISTERIAL
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MEETING IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE NEXT YEAR.

4. ROUILLON ALSO SAID THAT THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE DIALOGUE AT THEIR JULY 10 MEETING IN PARIS. HE ANTICIPATES BEING CALLED BACK FROM HIS PLANNED JULY VACATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF THE EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS AFTER THE ARAB LEAGUE HAS ACTED UPON THE EC DIALOGUE SUGGESTIONS IN MID-JULY AND ALSO, PROBABLY, TO PREPARE FOR THE LATE JULY MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. WHEN WE TOLD ROUILLON THAT IN REMARKS MADE EARLIER THAT DAY POLITICAL PUNDIT RAYMOND ARON HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. VIEW THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS AND 20 ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE APT TO REINFORCE RADICAL ARAB POLITICAL VIEWS, ROUILLON SAID HE NEVER READS ARON. ARON'S OPINION, SAID ROUILLON, SHOULD BE DISMISSED AS HE, UNLIKE DE GAULLE, HAD NOT FORESEEN DETENTE AND ITS EFFECTS ON WORLD POLITICS.

6. MEANWHILE, AFTER A JUNE 25 MEETING WITH SAUVAGNARGUES, TUNISIAN FONMIN CHATTI, IN REFERRING TO THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE, IS QUOTED BY LE FIGARO AS SAYING, "...IT IS NOT A QUESTION FOR US OF A SIMPLE DIALOGUE BETWEEN PETROLEUM SUPPLIERS AND FACTORY SELLERS. EVERYTHING IS RELATED, OF COURSE, BUT THE ARABS WILL BE SENSITIVE AND ATTACH A PRICE TO EUROPE'S PUTTING ASIDE ITS USUAL RESERVE AND, AS THE U.S. HAS JUST DONE DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP MARKING ITS COMPREHENSION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE NEAR EAST AND OF THE PALESTINIANS' SITUATION, PRONOUNCING ITSELF CLEARLY ON THE QUESTIONS WHICH AFFECT THE PEACE OF THE WORLD...".

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